**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-7 **(Canceled)**

8. **(Currently amended)** A fuel injection device (22) for an internal combustion engine, comprising

a housing (30),

at least ~~one valve element (36)~~ **two coaxial valve elements (34, 36)** which ~~cooperates~~ **cooperate** with ~~a valve seat (58)~~ **respective valve seats (46, 58)** on an injection end of the housing (30),

at least two fuel outlet conduits (68) in the housing associated with **each of** the valve ~~element (36)~~ **elements (34, 36)**, ~~and~~

**a first annular groove (66a) provided in the housing (30) for providing fluid communication between the fuel outlet conduits associated with the radially outer valve element, the linear fuel outlets (68) extending from this annular groove, and**

~~an~~ **a second** annular groove ~~(66) providing~~ **(66b) provided on the valve element for providing** fluid communication between the fuel outlet conduits (68) associated with the **radially outer** valve element (36).

9. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 8, wherein the annular groove (66; 66a) is embodied in the housing (30).

10. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 8, wherein the annular groove (66; 66b) is embodied in the valve element (36).

11. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 8, wherein the annular groove (66) comprises one annular groove (66a) embodied in the housing (30), and a further annular groove (66b) embodied in the valve element (36).

12. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 8, wherein the annular groove (66) has an approximately semicircular cross section.

13. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 9, wherein the annular groove (66) has an approximately semicircular cross section.

14. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 10, wherein the annular groove (66) has an approximately semicircular cross section.

15. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 11, wherein the annular groove (66) has an approximately semicircular cross section.

16. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 8, wherein the annular groove has an asymmetrical cross section, with a lesser total curvature upstream of the fuel outlet conduits than downstream.

17. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 9, wherein the annular groove has an asymmetrical cross section, with a lesser total curvature upstream of the fuel outlet conduits than downstream.

18. **(Previously presented)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 10, wherein the annular groove has an asymmetrical cross section, with a lesser total curvature upstream of the fuel outlet conduits than downstream.

19. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 8, wherein the ~~fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the~~ fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).

20. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 9, wherein the ~~fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36),~~

~~and the~~ fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).

21. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 10, wherein the ~~fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the~~ fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).

22. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 11, wherein the ~~fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the~~ fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).

23. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 12, wherein the ~~fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the~~ fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).

24. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 13, wherein the ~~fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66)~~

~~is present in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the~~ fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).

25. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 16, wherein the ~~fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the~~ fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).

26. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 17, wherein the ~~fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the~~ fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).

27. **(Currently amended)** The fuel injection device (22) of claim 18, wherein the ~~fuel injection device (22) comprises at least two coaxial valve elements (34, 36), and the annular groove (66) is present in the region of the fuel outlet conduits (68) of the radially outer valve element (36), and the~~ fuel outlet conduits (64) of the radially inner valve element (34) begin at a central blind hole (62) which is formed on the injection end of the housing (30).